

In the Specification:

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-12 to read as follows:

a1

The subject matter of the present application is related to that disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,862,260, and in copending applications 08/746,613, filed November 12, 1996 (**allowed now patent 6,122,403**); 09/074,034, filed May 6, 1998 (**now patent 6,449,377**); 09/127,502, filed July 31, 1998 (**now patent 6,345,104**); 09/185,380, filed November 3, 1998 (**now patent 6,549,638**); 09/234,780, filed January 20, 1999 (**now abandoned**); 09/287,940, filed April 7, 1999 (**now patent 6,580,819**); 09/314,648, filed May 19, 1999; 09/343,104, filed June 29, 1999; 60/158,015, filed October 6, 1999 (**now abandoned**); 09/433,104, filed November 3, 1999 (**now patent 6,636,615**); 60/164,619, filed November 10, 1999 (**now abandoned**); 09/503,881, filed February 14, 2000 (**now patent 6,614,914**); 09/525,865, filed March 15, 2000 (**now patent 6,611,607**); 09/547,664, filed April 12, 2000; 09/562,516, filed May 1, 2000; and 09/562,524, filed May 1, 2000.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 4, lines 10-14 to read as follows:

a2

Any print- or physical media-watermark technology can be employed in conjunction with the present invention. Representative watermarking technologies suitable for such use are detailed in the assignee's patent 5,862,260, and in applications 09/074,034 (**now patent 6,449,377**), 09/127,502 (**now patent 6,345,104**), 09/503,881 (**now patent 6,614,914**), 09/562,516, and 09/562,524. A great many other watermarking technologies are familiar to those skilled in the digital watermarking art.

Please rewrite the paragraph extending between page 5, line 28 and page 6, line 9, to read as follows:

R 3

As noted, a "fragile" digital watermark is one designed to evidence copying (e.g., by not surviving, or by having attributes that change in a detectable manner during the scanning/printing operations associated with copying) not to withstand the scanning/printing operations associated with photocopying. (The use of fragile watermarks is detailed in applications 09/433,104 (**now patent 6,636,615**) and 09/234,780 (**now abandoned**)). If markings (e.g., legitimate franking indicia) incorporating such a watermark are photocopied or otherwise reproduced from one envelope onto a second envelope, the copy will either not include the watermark or the watermark will be changed in a way that indicates it is a copy. Processing equipment in the postal system can be alert to such copies (which are identified by the absence or modification of the fragile watermark), and cull them from the properly-franked mail. Likewise, fraud or counterfeit investigators can use special readers to verify originality and detect copies.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 7, lines 1-11 to read as follows:

A 4

Such watermark-based "do not copy" systems are further detailed in applications 09/074,034 (**now patent 6,449,377**), 09/127,502 (**now patent 6,345,104**), 09/185,380 (**now patent 6,549,638**) and 09/287,940 (**now patent 6,580,819**). The detection of the watermark can occur in various, and preferably numerous, locations in likely reproduction systems. In a desktop computer system, for example, image data may be analyzed for such a watermark by software in the scanner (e.g., scanner driver software), software in the computer (e.g., TWAIN interface software, operating system software, image editing software, internet browser software, printer driver software), and software in the printer (e.g., printer firmware). If any of these detectors encounters image data that has a "do not copy" watermark encoded therein, the detector will interfere with its reproduction (e.g., by discontinuing the process, by scarring the image, by hiding tracer data for later forensic use, etc.)